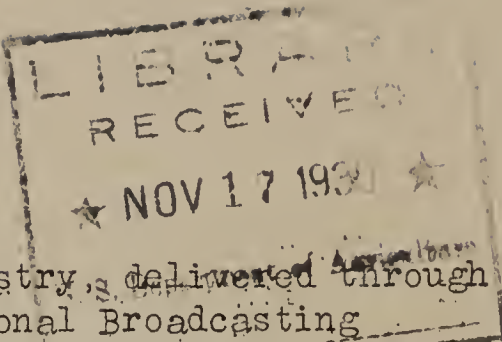


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR



A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 38 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, November 6, 1930.

How-Do-You-Do Friends: I dare say that most of you have observed that there is a reason for everything, but that the problem oftentimes is to discover the reason. Here in the Department and in the experiment stations throughout the country we have a large force of scientific workers who are endeavoring to discover the reason why certain plants and animals develop abnormally. Perhaps I can illustrate my point by telling you of a specific case.

Several years ago, Mr. C. F. Kinman of the Department, working in California found that certain cherry trees were unproductive - an occasional tree or portion of a tree produced practically no fruit, while branches of the same tree, or other trees of the same variety standing nearby produced regular and good crops. This trouble was not confined to a single variety, and the problem for the scientific worker was to find out the cause.

A careful study of the soil conditions in orchards where the unproductive trees were located failed to disclose the trouble. The unfruitful trees blossomed profusely, but no fruit set. Sometimes the unfruitful trees appeared in groups and in other cases they were scattered over large orchards. In some orchards only an occasional unproductive tree was found, while in others unproductive trees were numerous. The leaves on these unproductive trees were usually irregular in shape, undersized, and looked like they might have some disease, however, no disease could be located. Finally, it was found that this tendency to abnormal growth and failure to set fruit was a characteristic of individual trees and that this characteristic was readily transmitted in the course of propagating and growing new trees. For example, scions or buds taken from an unproductive tree would perpetuate the abnormal character. On the other hand, where wood from a normal producing tree was used for propagating purposes, productive trees would result.

This case illustrates the importance of finding out the why of things, also the desirability of using fruit trees of known performance as a source of propagating stock. Some day I want to tell you more about the methods used in the propagation of fruits.

A reprint has just been issued of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1591 on transplanting trees and shrubs. The information contained in this bulletin is of particular interest to persons who desire to transplant trees or shrubs of any kind during the fall, winter, or early spring months.

Many persons have an idea that the proper way to move a tree is to simply dig it with whatever root system that can be conveniently kept upon it, plant it in a new place, and take a chance on having it live. According to Farmers' Bulletin No. 1591, it is possible to move almost any kind of tree regardless of size, taking most of its root system with it and having it live in its new location. This bulletin contains 31 figure illustrations showing the proper methods of digging trees and moving them with the greater part of their root system attached to them.

Another timely reprint is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1284 on apple orchard renovation. In going about the country, one sees many orchards, especially farm orchards, that are in a neglected, run-down condition. Some of these orchards are so far gone that it may not pay to renovate them, while others can be brought back into profitable production without undue expense, and the winter is the proper time to do most of this work. If you have an orchard problem, especially where the trees have been neglected, you will find Farmers' Bulletin No. 1284 of great help.

Farmers who grow black-eyed peas and various kinds of beans and peas frequently have their troubles with the beans or peas being destroyed by weevils. These insects are especially destructive in the Southern States and unless the beans or peas are properly treated, complete loss is almost certain to occur.

The usual treatment of the beans or peas is to either fumigate or heat them, or as an alternative, place them in a cold storage. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1275 tells how the beans or peas become infested and how the weevils may be killed. It also contains descriptions of the various kinds of weevils which attack beans and peas. Under the heading of remedies, the author says that no group of seed pests can be more easily controlled in storage than the bean and pea weevils. Farmers should watch their crops and apply treatment at the first sign of infestation, and from my own experience, I would add that those of you who live in the South and have beans or peas to store should apply the remedy even before there is a sign of infestation. By all means get a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1275 before you undertake the treatment of beans and peas to destroy weevils.
